



# "The President's Own" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

August—September, 1988

## NOTES

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Friends of the Marine Band

### MARINE BAND CELEBRATES 190TH ANNIVERSARY

The United States Marine Band celebrated its 190th anniversary with a gala concert on July 11th in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The concert was hosted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General A.M. Gray and attendance was by invitation of the Commandant.

Although the Marine Band has performed in the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center on an annual basis for years, the "invitation-only" concert held on July 11th has been reserved for a special birthday observance at five-year intervals.

Mr. Patrick Hayes, Managing Director Emeritus of the Washington Performing Arts Society, served as concert moderator for the evening, making his third appearance in this capacity at Marine Band anniversary concerts. Mr. Hayes previously joined the Marine Band on stage in the Kennedy Center for the Band's 175th and 185th anniversary concerts.

Colonel John R. Bourgeois, Director of the United States Marine Band, selected a program featuring American music both new and old. The program included a number of works which have become traditional selections at these anniversary concerts and others which have been composed since the Band's 185th anniversary.

The concert opened with the "Thomas Jefferson" March by William H. Santelmann (Director of the U.S. Marine Band 1898-1927). Next, former Marine Band Director Colonel Albert Schoepper (Director 1955-1972) took the podium to conduct three selections: Commando

March by Samuel Barber, Variants on a Medieval Tune by Norman Dello Joio, and March of the Women Marines by Louis Saverino. This is Colonel Schoepper's second appearance with the Marine Band since his retirement. The other occasion was a 1982 concert in Lisner Auditorium on the tenth anniversary of his retirement.

Colonel Bourgeois returned to the podium for the premiere performance of a work commissioned by the United States Marine Band, "Elegy" for Symphonic Band by Mark D. Camphouse. Mr. Camphouse is Director of Bands at Radford University in Radford, Virginia and is also very active as a composer for wind band. The new work is somber yet it reflects the heroic sacrifices made by the fighting men of all services who inspired it.

### 190<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CONCERT

The first half of the concert concluded with "Concord" by Clare Grundman, a work based on tunes and marching songs of the Revolutionary War, and the ever-popular "Rhapsody in Blue" by George Gershwin with Marine Band pianist John Legg as soloist.

The second half of the concert opened with two works inspired by "The Marines' Hymn." Robert Jager's "Esprit de Corps" has elements of the hymn freely interspersed in the melodic material of the composition and the Galop from "Genevieve de Brabant" (by French composer Jacques Offenbach) contains the earliest known musical reference to the melody we know as "The Marines' Hymn."

Marine Band Baritone vocalist Michael Ryan sang six "Old American Songs" scored by Aaron Copland. The six

songs were selected from two groups of American folk tunes and songs which Copland arranged for voice and orchestra. The arrangements for voice and band were done by retired Marine Band arranger Thomas Knox and by Howard Bowlin, head of the Band's arranging staff. One additional Copland song was presented as an encore.

The Band's tradition of presenting music by John Philip Sousa on every concert continued with Colonel John Bourgeois' compilation of Sousa marches entitled "Marching Along." The audience was treated to an entire parade of Sousa marches, each announced and identified by large "encore cards" which gave the title and date of composition. As an encore, Colonel Bourgeois performed "Semper Fidelis," the official march of the United States Marine Corps which Sousa wrote as Director of the U.S. Marine Band. "Semper Fidelis" celebrates its 100th anniversary in 1988.

The concert closed with "American Pageant" by Thomas Knox, a medley of patriotic songs which have been important to our nation since its founding. The final encores for the evening were Sousa's "The Stars and Stripes Forever" and the Armed Forces Medley, concluding with "The Marines' Hymn."

It was an evening rich in history—the choice of music spanning the Marine Band's 190 years, the appearance of the Band's former Director Colonel Albert Schoepper, and the historical vignettes about the Marine Band. President Reagan sent a special message to the Band which reflected on the importance of the Band's anniversary. The President wrote:

*I am delighted to congratulate the Directors and Members of the United States Marine Band on your 190th Anniversary.*

Thomas Jefferson, as you know, christened the Marine Band "The President's Own," and the American people have always considered you a national institution and treasure. Whether serenading Adams or Jefferson, accompanying Lincoln to Gettysburg, or performing at the White House for American audiences and our guests from abroad, you have both made and witnessed history and always epitomized the finest traditions of Corps and country.

I have, of course, been able to hear the Marine Band many times—such as at my second inauguration, in January 1985, when the ceremonies were held in the Rotunda of the Capitol because of bitter cold weather. The Marine Band's performance in this great citadel, a site so symbolic of the history of our land, reinforced the closing words of my Inaugural Address—words about the echoes of our past, echoes that our heritage forever bids us call the American sound, the voice of freedom and hope for all mankind.

You can be proud that you hear those echoes, and that you help your country to hear them, too. For 190 years, from "Semper Fidelis" to "The Marines' Hymn," you have given us the truly American sound of the United States Marine Band. I am prouder than I can say to call you "The President's Own." God bless you and God bless America.—Ronald Reagan

The entire concert was filmed for television in preparation for an upcoming television documentary on the 190th Anniversary of the United States Marine Band. Broadcast dates and other details about this program will be announced in NOTES when complete information becomes available.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE COMES TO A CLOSE

The Marine Band's popular Summer Concert Series will come to a close on Wednesday, August 31st when the Band gives its final outdoor concert of the year on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol. The Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks schedule their final parade of the year for Friday, September 2nd.

The good news is that you have the full month of August to attend these concerts and other summer events by "The President's Own." As always, our con-

cert information line lists weekly concert programs and other events at (202) 433-4011. Those wishing to attend the Friday Evening Parades at Marine Barracks should make reservations in advance by calling (202) 433-6060. Marine Band performances are free and open to the public but reservations are required for the popular Friday Evening Parades.

CONCERT INFORMATION  
(202)433-4011

## MARINE BAND VISITS NEW ENGLAND DURING FALL TOUR

"The President's Own" departs Washington October 1st to tour New England during its annual fall concert tour. The Band will present 52 concerts in 50 days and will perform in 10 states: New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Maryland.

A complete schedule of the Band's tour appearances, with concert locations, times and local sponsors, will be sent to everyone on our mailing list within the next month. All tour concerts will be on an admission-free basis but will require tickets to guarantee seating. In most cases, those interested in attending the tour concerts will obtain tickets from the local sponsors, often by mail. Complete information on obtaining tickets will be included with the tour schedule.

Colonel John R. Bourgeois has selected a varied program of soloists, Sousa marches, popular and classic selections that will appeal to all ages.

The U.S. Marine Band, celebrating its 190th birthday this year, has been touring America since 1891 when John

Philip Sousa, the Band's 17th Director, organized the first national tour.

For more information about the 1988 Marine Band concert tour, call Marine Band National Tour Director John Potochney at (202) 433-5812.

## JAZZ COMBO CONCERT IN AUGUST

The Marine Band's Jazz Combo will perform as part of the 1988 Summer Concert Series in the Pentagon Center Court on Tuesday, August 9th from 12 noon until 1:00 p.m. These lunch hour concerts are designed to attract Washingtonians and tourists alike. No tickets are required and the public is invited to attend.

## THE GREATEST BANDS IN THE LAND

Following a successful first year, National Public Radio is continuing its series "The Greatest Bands in the Land" featuring weekly programs by the major service bands of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines. Each band will present 8 to 10 concerts throughout the year and the Marine Band's first 4 broadcast concerts are scheduled to air in September.

Although the series is offered to all National Public Radio stations, each local station makes the decision whether or not to carry it. This year, we hope for a much wider distribution of the series. We recommend that you check with your local N.P.R. affiliate about "The Greatest Bands in the Land" and we encourage your support of this series with your calls, cards and letters.

For more information about these or other Marine Band performances, or if you would like to be added to the "Friends of the Marine Band" mailing list, write to:

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